



For details, art or photos about FLICKERS media releases, contact **SHAWN QUIRK**, (quirk@film-festival.org)

FLICKERS' RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES WINNER OF THIRD ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDENTS IN FILM AND THE ARTS

ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP HONORING RETIRED UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND DEAN, WINIFRED E. BROWNELL AWARDED TO LIONEL JEFFRIES

(PROVIDENCE, R.I. September 2020) – As part of its ongoing “Celebration of Women in Film and Arts”, the **Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)** is proud to announce the winner of the annual **Winifred E. Brownell Scholarship Fund**. Named after retired Dean of the URI College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Winifred E. Brownell, the scholarship pays recognition to her career championing the arts and humanities at the University. The annual award is for \$1,000 and is presented without restrictions to students at the University of Rhode Island, allowing the winner to use the money as they see fit.

This year's winner is **Lionel Jeffries**, of Toland, CT who will be entering his junior year at the University of Rhode Island and pursuing a major in Film. His goal is to establish a career path in the film industry.

The award was announced during the Festival's Virtual Awards Ceremony on Sunday, August 9th.

In presenting the award, **Dr. Brownell** stated, “**Lionel Jeffries**, is an excellent choice for this year's award. He has an outstanding academic record in the URI Harrington School of Communication and Media, growing professional experience in film, an extensive record of service, and the most impressive essay of all applicants.”

According to **George T. Marshall**, '76, Executive Director and Founder of the Flickers Arts Collaborative, the 39-year-old non-profit that produces the Rhode Island International Film Festival, “Our central desire behind creating and awarding this scholarship is to celebrate and perpetuate the 46-plus year legacy at the University of Dean Brownell. This scholarship's intent is to continue the great gift that Winifred Brownell shared in her career and inspire the next generation through her name.

“Every year, we see the advancements women are making within the film industry, advancements made possible by groundbreaking leaders like Dr. Brownell. Our statistics for this year bear this out.

"In 2020, 97 total awards were given out to 88 different films: 64 of those films had women working as either directors, writers or producers. Of the 44 Grand Prize awards presented, 36 of them were helmed by women," Marshall added.

"Dr. Brownell's visionary work propelled the University to become a leading hub for film media studies and nurtured the Rhode Island International Film Festival during its infancy, spurring it to become the internationally acclaimed event that it is today.

Information about the Scholarship Program can be found on the Festival website: www.rifilmfest.org or directly at <http://www.film-festival.org/WinnieBrownell.php>. Applicants are expected to meet requirements that demonstrate artistic talent and an ambition to strive for excellence. Additionally, applicants can matriculate in any arts discipline at the University. For information on tax-deductible donations to the Scholarship Fund, please write to <georget@film-festival.org>

ABOUT FLICKERS

FLICKERS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit arts organization that supports and promotes the film arts in Rhode Island and throughout New England. Over the past two decades, its production, the Rhode Island International Film Festival, has screened **5,764** independent films and videos out of **74,754** entries, presented **1,405** World/North American premieres, featured over **1,200** entries that were locally produced, and hosted **4,193** filmmakers and crew. Since its inception, over **499,000** film lovers have enjoyed the Rhode Island International Film Festival and its programming, not including those in New England watching its weekly broadcast and cable programming series, **doubleFEATURE**.

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

THE FLICKERS' RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL has secured its place in the global community as the portal for the best in international independent cinema, earning the respect of domestic and foreign filmmakers, filmgoers and trend watchers. Ranked as one of the top 10 Festivals in the United States, RIIFF is a qualifying festival for the Narrative, Documentary and Animation Short Film Academy Awards through its affiliation with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) and the Canadian Screen Awards. There are only 10 film festivals worldwide that share this distinction and RIIFF is the only festival in New England. The Festival takes place every August.

RIIFF offers a variety of prestigious awards to some of the most talented artists in (and soon to be in) the business. The festival's Gilbert Stuart Artistic Vision Lifetime Achievement Award has been bestowed upon Academy Award-winning actors Ernest Borgnine and Patricia Neal, Oscar-nominated actors Seymour Cassel and Cicely Tyson, acclaimed actors of stage and screen, Paul Sorvino and Theo Bikel, director Blake Edwards, special effects icon, Douglas Trumbull and production design legend, Joseph Alves. The festival's Creative Vision and Crystal Image Awards recognizing outstanding directors, actors, writers, film talent, have been awarded to such talents as Karen Allen, Zach Braff, Blythe Danner, Ioan Gruffudd, Rosa von Praunheim, Michael Showalter, composer Klaus Badelt, and children's book author Sandra Boynton. More than simply a film festival, RIIFF champions artistic vision in any form and is dedicated to sharing that vision with a diverse and enthusiastic audience that hungers for great storytelling.

The **Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival** returns **August 9-15, 2021**. For more information, please contact the Festival at 401.861.4445 / rifilmfest.org